

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH, SOV PFOR

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. VICTOR TRIFONOV, FIRST SECRETARY SOVIET EMBASSY, CALLED ON DEPTOFF (ARMSTRONG EA/PRCM) FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION. IN ANSWER QUERIES, TRIFONOV SAID SOVIETS EXPECT NO PROGRESS IN CURRENT ROUND OF BORDER NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ILYACHEVIS HAVING WITH HAN NIEN-LUNG, DUE TO PRC INSISTENCE ON WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM DISPUTED AREAS AS CONDITIONFOR DETAILED DISCUSSION OF BORDER SETTLEMENT. (TRIFONOV CALLED THIS A "POLITICAL CONDITION".) HE SAID SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF EASTERN BORDER ON BASIS THALWEG PRINCIPLE, ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD STILL BE THE PROBLEM OF ISLAND OF BIG USSURI, NEAR Khabarovsk. PRC MERELYRESPONDS WITH WITHDRAWAL DEMAND, AND REFUSES TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL

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ITSELF. IN REPLY TO A QUERY, HE SAID PRC HASNOT

REITERATED PREVIOUS DEMAND THAT SOVIETS ADMIT THAT PREVIOUS TREATIES WERE UNEQUAL. BECAUSE PRC REFUSES TODISCUSS SOVIET PROPOSAL ON EASTERN BORDER, SOVIETS HAVE NOT MADE A PROPOSAL ON WESTERN PORTION OF BORDER.

2. ON HELICOPTER CREW, HE SPECULATED THAT CHINESE MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE WILLING TO SETTLE PROBLEM BY SOME SORT OF TRADE-OFF. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

3. WHEN ASKED WHETHER NPC, ETC., MIGHT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, HE GAVE HIS VIEWS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENT. CHOU-IST MODERATES ARE NOW IN ASCENDANCY (HE INCLUDED CHANG CHUN-CHIAO IN THAT "COALITION") BUT RADICALS HAVE NOT "LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS" AND STRUGGLE WILL BECOME ACUTE AGAIN AT SOME POINT. HE IMPLIED THAT MAO IS MORE SYMPATHETIC TO RADICALS THAN TO MODERATES, AND DID NOT RESPOND TO COMMENT ON MAO'S CALL FOR "STABILITY AND UNITY". "DICTATORSHIP OF PROLETARIAT" CAMPAIGN IS MOVE BY RADICALS. AT ONE POINT HE SAID SOVIETS BELIEVE SOME IN CHOU-IST COALITION WANT IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS, BUT DECLINED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, ALTHOUGH HE APPARENTLY EXCLUDES TENG HSIAO-PING. LOOKING AHEAD, HE PLACES HIS BET ON CHANG CHUN-CHIAO TO SUCCEED MAO AS PARTY CHAIRMAN. KISSINGER

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